

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing elastic article, wherein the article is a molded/formed product of a rubber-like composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more or a modified product thereof, wherein the molding/forming is accompanied by vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in water ~~a solvent~~,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of  $83 \times 10^4$  or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more, and

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified lattices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid lattices in the state of latex.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing elastic article of claim 2, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a hydrogenated product of a polymer of isoprene unit derived from *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Ficus elastica*, *Eucommia ulmoides*, or a fungus belonging to the genus *Lactarius*.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a rubber-like elastic article, comprising the step of subjecting a rubber composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more or a modified product thereof to molding/forming accompanied by vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in water a-solvent,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of  $83 \times 10^4$  or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more, and

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified lattices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid lattices in the state of latex.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article, which is a resin modifier comprising a rubber-like polymer that is a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of 95% or more, or a modified product thereof,

wherein said rubber-like polymer is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in water a-solvent,

wherein said rubber-like polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of  $83 \times 10^4$  or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more, and

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified lattices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid lattices in the state of latex.

9. – 11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Previously Presented)** A resin composition comprising a resin and the rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article according to claim 8.

13. **(Original)** The resin composition of claim 12, comprising 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the resin modifier per 100 parts by weight of the resin.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A molded article made from the resin composition of claim 12.

15. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or a modified product thereof,

wherein the article is a molding/forming product of a rubber-like composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex having a degree of hydrogenation of 50% or more or a modified product thereof,

wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of  $60 \times 10^4$  or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is an ingredient in modified lattices obtained by hydrogenating natural polyisoprenoid lattices in the state of latex, and

wherein the molding/forming is accompanied by crosslinking.

23. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 22, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex is a product of the reaction of the natural polyisoprenoid latex with hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst.

24. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 22, wherein the natural polyisoprenoid latex is a latex derived from *Hevea rasiliensis*, *Ficus elastica*, *Eucommia ulcommia*, or fungus belonging to the genus *Lactarius*.

25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a homogeneous catalyst and a heterogeneous catalyst,

wherein the homogeneous catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a rhodium complex catalyst, metal salts, and metal-containing ionic compounds;

wherein said metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds are selected from the group consisting of nickel carbonate-trialkylaluminum, palladium chloride, and palladium acetate, and

wherein the heterogeneous catalyst is a solid catalyst having Pd/CaCO<sub>3</sub> or Pd/C.